

Filed for intro on 01/31/2000
HOUSE BILL 2772 By
Newton

SENATE BILL 2986
By Elsea

AN ACT to confer domestic relations jurisdiction on the General
Sessions Court of Meigs County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is hereby conferred domestic relations jurisdiction on the General Sessions Court of Meigs County and while it is exercising domestic relations jurisdiction it shall be know as the domestic relations court of Meigs County.

SECTION 2. The domestic relations court of Meigs County shall at all times be treated and considered a court of record. Such court shall be in continuous session without the intervention of any term and such court shall be held at such time and during such period as shall be required to provide for the orderly dispatch of all business properly before it.

SECTION 3. (a) The domestic relations court shall have concurrent jurisdiction, powers and authority with the chancery and circuit courts to hear and determine all cases of divorce, annulment, alimony and separate maintenance, support under interstate compacts, domestic relations, and all other proceedings and all other relief incident thereto together with full power and authority conferred upon the chancery and circuit courts to enforce all its orders, decrees and judgments.

(b) The authority, power and jurisdiction conferred by this act shall be coextensive with the boundary lines of the county.

SECTION 4. Appeals from the judgments of the domestic relations court arising under this act shall be to the court of appeals or to the supreme court in the same manner as provided in such cases from the chancery and circuit courts.

SECTION 5. All cases brought in the domestic relations court pursuant to this act shall be according to the form for pleadings and practice in the chancery and circuit courts, and such cases shall be tried as like cases are tried in the chancery and circuit courts. The clerk of the domestic relations court, shall keep a docket of cases filed in such court and the procedure in each case, and shall enter orders and decrees according to practice and rules of the chancery and circuit courts. The judge of the court shall make and cause to be entered on record all such orders and decrees according to the practice and rules now in effect in the chancery and circuit courts.

SECTION 6. The clerk and master of Meigs County shall be the clerk of all matters filed in the domestic relations court and all fees received by the clerk shall continue to be a part of the fees of the office. Necessary clerical help for the clerk shall be funded from the county general fund. The clerk shall make application to the judge of the domestic relations court or to the chancellor or the circuit court for authority to employ such help as is justified. Meigs County shall furnish the clerk adequate office space and equipment for the conduct of the affairs of the office.

SECTION 7. The domestic relations court may hear and determine all undisposed cases over which jurisdiction is conferred by this act and which are pending in the courts on the effective date of this act. Such cases shall be treated as if they had originated in the domestic relations court.

SECTION 8. If any provisions of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not effect other provisions or applications of

the act which and can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 9. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the county legislative body of Meigs County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the county legislative body and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 10. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective upon being approved as provided in Section 9.